

App. No. 10/624,846
Amdt. Dated September 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 28, 2005
Atty. Dkt. No. 4361-100

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled) A method of making a stringed musical instrument learning aid, comprising:

configuring chord indicia in an ordered sequence to designate groups of chords for given musical keys;

arranging the chord indicia and musical key indicia in a matrix;

arranging the matrix in overlapping columns;

designating each column with an individual one of the musical key indicia; and

arranging the columns with each group of chords comprising a plurality of columns such that each key indicia comprising a designated column and at least one adjacent other key column.
2. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 1, further including flanking the designated column by said other column and another adjacent column.
3. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 1, wherein said matrix is configured in a circular matrix configuration, comprising a series of radial columns and concentric annual rows.
4. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 1, further including providing finger position indicia corresponding to said chords.

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5. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 1, further including providing current chord display indicia.
6. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 1, further including providing a hear-a-sample button indicia.
7. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 1, further including fret number indicia to help designate the frets to be played for a given chord.
8. (Cancelled) A method of facilitating the learning of a stringed musical instrument, comprising:
 - (a) using a learning aid having chord indicia configured in an ordered arrangement to designate groups of chords for given musical keys;
 - (b) selecting a musical key from the learning aid to learn groups of chords corresponding to the selected key and to learn which ones of said combination of chords correspond to other musical keys; and
 - (c) selecting said other musical keys to learn another combination of chords corresponding to said one of said other musical keys and to learn which ones of said other group o chords are new chords to be learned.
9. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 8, further including selecting a further one of said other musical keys to learn a further groups of chords corresponding to said one of each other musical keys and to learn which ones of said further group of chords are new chords to be learned.

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10. (Cancelled) A learning aid for facilitating the learning of a stringed musical instrument, comprising:
- chord indicia configured in an ordered sequence to designate groups of chords for given musical keys;
- musical key indicia;
- said chord indicia and said key indicia being arranged in a matrix, said matrix having overlapping columns, each column having an individual key indicia, the columns being arranged with each group of chords comprising a plurality of columns such that each key indicia includes a designated column and at least one adjacent other key column.
11. (Cancelled) A learning aid according to claim 10, wherein each key indicia comprises the designated column flanked by the other key column and another adjacent key column.
12. (Cancelled) A learning aid according to claim 10, wherein said matrix is configured in a circular matrix configuration, comprising a series of radial columns and concentric annual rows.
13. (Cancelled) A learning aid according to claim 10, further including finger position indicia corresponding to said chords.
14. (Cancelled) A learning aid according to claim 10, further including current chord display indicia.

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15. (Cancelled) A learning aid according to claim 10, further including a hear-a-sample button indicia.
16. (Cancelled) A learning aid according to claim 10, further including fret number indicia to help designate the frets to be played for a given chord.
17. (Cancelled) A learning aid according to claim 10, further including window indicia for featuring said designated column and said at least one adjacent other key column.
18. (New) A learning aid for a stringed musical instrument, comprising:

matrix indicia having a plurality of columns and a plurality of rows;

wherein the columns of the matrix are musical key columns and are associated with a group of different musical keys and the rows of the matrix are associated with an ordered set of different chords, wherein each column includes one of the musical keys and primary chords corresponding to the one of the musical keys, wherein the columns are organized so that a pair of adjacent columns to a first musical key column having a first musical key include chords of a chord combination corresponding with the first musical key, and wherein the chords of the first column and of the pair of adjacent columns comprise a chord combination for the first musical key;

chord position indicia configured to represent a plurality of strings of the musical instrument;

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finger position indicia positioned relative to the strings of the chord position indicia to display how selected ones of the chords of the chord combinations are to be played; and

wherein a key is selected by a user and then one of the chords of a chord combination associated with the selected key is selected by the user, and wherein the finger position indicia disposed relative to the chord position indicia illustrate how to play the selected chord of the selected chord combination.

19. (New) The learning aid of claim 18, wherein the matrix is configured in a circular matrix configuration, comprising a series of radial columns and concentric annular rows.
20. (New) The learning aid of claim 18, wherein each column includes three chords, and each chord combination includes nine chords.
21. (New) The learning aid of claim 18, further including current chord display indicia.
22. (New) The learning aid of claim 20, wherein there are 12 key columns and a total of 36 chords.
23. (New) The learning aid of claim 18, further including fret number indicia.
24. (New) The learning aid of claim 18, wherein the types of chords in each column include major, minor, and seventh.
25. (New) The learning aid of claim 18, wherein the matrix is displayed on a computer.

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26. (New) A method of facilitating the learning to play a stringed musical instrument, comprising

using a matrix having a plurality of columns and a plurality of rows;

wherein the columns of the matrix are musical key columns and are associated with a group of different musical keys and the rows of the matrix are associated with an ordered set of different chords, wherein each column includes one of the musical keys and primary chords corresponding to the one of the musical keys, wherein the columns are organized so that a pair of adjacent columns to a first musical key column having a first musical key include chords of a chord combination corresponding with the first musical key, and wherein the chords of the first column and of the pair of adjacent columns comprise a chord combination for the first musical key;

using chord position indicia configured to represent a plurality of strings of the musical instrument;

using finger position indicia positioned relative to the strings of the chord position indicia to display how selected ones of the chords of the chord combinations are to be played; and

wherein a key is selected by a user and then one of the chords of a chord combination associated with the selected key is selected by the user, and wherein the finger position indicia disposed relative to the chord position indicia illustrate how to play the selected chord of the selected chord combination.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the matrix is configured in a circular

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matrix configuration, comprising a series of radial columns and concentric annular rows.

28. (New) The method of claim 25, further including using finger position indicia corresponding to at least one of the chords.
29. (New) The method of claim 25, further including using current chord display indicia.
30. (New) The method of claim 25,
31. (New) The method of claim 25, further including using fret number indicia.
32. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the types of chords include major, minor, and seventh.
33. (New) The method of claim 25, further including viewing the matrix on a computer.